

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, May 23, 2003

MPDC SEEKS TWO SUSPECTS WANTED IN GANG-RELATED SHOOTING AND HOMICIDE AT 14TH AND CHAPIN STREETS, NW

The MPDC is seeking the public's help in locating two suspects wanted in connection with a recent, apparent gang-related shooting in Northwest DC. At approximately 7 pm on Thursday, July 28, 2003, the MPDC was called to 14th and Chapin Streets, NW for the report of a shooting. Once on the scene, officers located four males suffering from gunshot wounds. One of the victims, identified as 22-year-old Erlin Noe Gutierrez, of Silver Spring, Maryland, died as a result of his injuries. As the result of a subsequent investigation by members of the MPDC's Violent Crimes Branch, arrest warrants charging Murder One While Armed have been issued for two suspects: Guillermo Somarriba-Gonzalez and Gypsy Deskins. Somarriba-Gonzalez is described as a Hispanic male, 24-years-old, 5'8" tall, 160 pounds, with brown eyes and brown hair. Deskins is described as a Hispanic male, 20-years-old, 5'6" tall, 160 pounds with brown eyes and black hair. Both men should be considered armed and very dangerous. Anyone with information about these subjects or who observes them should take no direct action, but call the MPDC at 9-1-1 or (202) 727-9099.

① View photos of the two suspects at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2298>

① View photos and descriptions of other members of DC's "Most Wanted" at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/solvers/mostwanted/mostwanted.shtm>

TWO YEARS LATER, PHOTO RADAR CONTINUES TO SHOW POSITIVE RESULTS

It was just over two years ago that the MPDC kicked off DC's photo radar speeding reduction program. Two years later, the percentage of motorists speeding aggressively in photo radar enforcement zones continues to be substantially lower than it was at the start of the program. In July 2003, fewer than 8 percent of the vehicles monitored by photo radar were found to be exceeding the speeding threshold established for the program. That compares with almost 10 percent of all motorists monitored in July 2002 and nearly 31 percent in July 2001, which represented the program's initial month-long "warning period." Aggressive speeding in July 2003 remained low even though a record number of vehicles – more than 746,000 – passed through photo radar zones during the month. July 2003 was the first month in which the MPDC began deploying photo radar vehicles during an overnight (10 pm-4 am) shift to help combat aggressive speeding then. Average speeds on residential streets, arteries and highways all continue to be substantially lower today than they were two years ago. On streets with a 25-mph limit, average speeds have been cut by one-quarter, from 36.5 mph in July 2001 to 27.4 mph in July 2003.

① Read the photo radar results at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/speedresults_text.shtm

① DC residents continue to heed the message to slow down. Only 21 percent of all photo radar tickets in July 2003 were issued to vehicles registered in DC - a record low figure.

4D SERGEANT AND OFFICER ARE RECOGNIZED FOR HELPING TO PREVENT SUICIDE ATTEMPT

This past May, the MPDC received a call of a man on top of the Veterans Administration Medical Center building in Northwest and contemplating suicide. Fourth District Officer James Antonio was the first to arrive on the scene. An Army veteran himself, Officer Antonio was able to talk with the man and quickly ascertain why he was so despondent: he had seriously injured his back serving in the Vietnam War and remained in great pain ever since. Soon thereafter, 4D Sergeant Rickie Murray, who also had military experience, arrived on the scene, climbed onto the roof, and began to converse with the man and quickly gained a rapport with him. Using his excellent communication and interpersonal skills, the sergeant eventually eased the man from the edge of the roof to the curb where both of them sat and continued to talk, like two military buddies reminiscing about life. The sergeant then accompanied the man back into the medical center and, at the man's request, stayed with him while he received his treatment. Sergeant Murray explained that he had to return to duty, but Officer Antonio stayed with the man for five hours before he, too, returned to duty. For their tremendous skill and compassion in preventing a potential suicide, Sergeant Murray and Officer Antonio were among 20 officers who were honored this past week during the MPDC's monthly CHAMPS awards ceremony.

PSA SUCCESS STORY: NUISANCE PROPERTY IN PSA 411 NO LONGER A NUISANCE

On numerous occasions, community members in PSA 411 complained of a nuisance property in their community, with a long history of narcotics sales, loitering, gambling and prostitution. The property owner was an elderly gentleman who was unable to control the illicit acts of his adult children. An inspection also revealed the home was in disrepair, with inadequate plumbing and wiring and structural problems. After several conversations with the owner, police learned the property had been "sold" to a realtor for \$50,000, less than half the home's assessed value. However, the owner had not received the money. Instead, the realtor served the owner with an eviction notice and was in court attempting to resolve the matter. Given the ongoing nuisance and possible fraud against the elderly homeowner, the PSA team sprang into action with the help of the Ward 1 Neighborhood Services Core Team. The home was inspected and code violations issued. The elderly homeowner was provided with a court-appointed guardian and social worker to assist him. The previous "sale" of the house was renegotiated, senior housing arrangements were made, and the adult children were served with eviction notices to abate the ongoing nuisance. The positive outcome is another example of how individuals can be served and communities made safer when police, residents and other government agencies work together.

NEWS & NOTES

Earlier Weekday Curfew. Young people and their parents are reminded that the weekday curfew in DC now begins at 11 pm on Sunday through Thursday, and remains at 12 midnight on weekends. Details at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/curfew.shtm>

Drug Free Zones. Drug free zones are in effect this weekend in five police districts, with additional zones planned for next weekend. Details on the Anti-Loitering/Drug Free Zone law are at: mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/drugfreezone.shtm

① For details on all of their heroic actions, click on:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/champs/2003/09.shtm>

① CHAMPS – Capital Hotels Award Metropolitan Police Service – is sponsored by the Hotel Association of Washington, DC. This month's award luncheon was held at the Loews L'Enfant Plaza Hotel in Southwest DC.

① Read more about this PSA success story at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/4th/ss_411_0308.shtm

① Learn more about community policing success stories in other police districts at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/success.shtm>

DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 9/5/03)

- 2003: 174
- 2002: 167
- % Change: +4.2%

Arrests (week ending 8/30/03)

- Total: 906
- Drugs: 108
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 28
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 31

Firearm Recoveries (as of 8/31/03)

- Total: 1,311
- August: 170

Traffic Fatalities (as of 5/23/03)

- 2003: 45
- 2002: 40
- % Change: +12.5%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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